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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 7 May 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. WARD (Canada)

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This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent to Ms. M. A. Cuna, Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board, room H-12K, UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMEN OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (E/ICEF/1993/P/L.34; E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.14)

1. Mr. KHAN (Vice-Chairman of the Programme Committee) said the Committee was submitting to the Executive Board for approval the draft recommendations contained in document E/ICEF/1993/P/L.34.

2. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the Executive Board approved the recommendations submitted by the Programme Committee.

3. It was so decided.

4. Ms. POULSEN (Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance) said the Committee was submitting to the Executive Board for approval the draft recommendations contained in document E/ICEF/1993/AB/L.14.

5. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the Executive Board approved the recommendations submitted by the Committee on Administration and Finance.

6. It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS

7. The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to adopt the draft recommendation contained in document E/ICEF/1993/CRP.35 entitled "Strengthening national capacities".

8. The draft recommendation was adopted.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

9. Mr. JOLLY (Acting Executive Director) said the work of the Executive Board had produced a firm and promising direction for the organization. The Board had approved 24 country programmes, given guidance for the follow-up to the commitments made at the World Summit for Children, and provided policy guidance to the secretariat on many major issues. It had reaffirmed UNICEF's priority for Africa while in no way diminishing attention to needs and initiatives in other regions. The 1993 budget had been revised and the budget for the coming biennium established. The secretariat had also received a clear mandate to negotiate a proposal to resolve the question of Headquarters accommodation.

10. Important issues remained pending, however, which could only be resolved in other forums: the questions of the future form of the Executive Board, the format of its meetings and their frequency and the question whether the Board would retain its dedicated policy leadership, intellectual expertise and operational concentration. A positive approach to those questions would be to ask how the strengths of UNICEF throughout the world could be used to strengthen the work and credibility of the United Nations as a whole. UNICEF was committed to fuller collaboration with other parts of the system in the common effort to respond to the human challenges facing the Organization.

(Mr. Jolly)

11. He was pleased to announce that, with the accession of Micronesia, the number of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child had reached 135, a total higher than that of any other international human rights instrument. In addition, scores of countries had produced or were completing national programmes of action.

12. The world had shown a new readiness to respond to the "loud" emergencies, but those who were aware of the less visible challenge of the "silent" emergencies must ensure that those expanded commitments received the resources needed to attain the goals. The promises made to the world's children would be kept if each person was committed himself to making them materialize through his work, his Government, his alliances and his individual actions. Nothing would be more tragic than to allow the experience gained during the 1980s to be wasted for lack of the significant but not impossible level of resources required.

13. Ms. SHAM POO (Deputy Executive Director, Operations) paid tribute to UNICEF staff members who had given their lives in the past year in the service of children, willingly putting themselves "in harm's way". They included Sean Devereux of the United Kingdom and Issa Mohammed of Somalia, killed in Somalia; Myint-Maung of Myanmar and Francis Ngure of Kenya, killed in the Sudan; Mohammed Ker Dahir of Kenya, who had died in Kenya; and Roko Konyen Biron of the Sudan, missing and presumed dead in the Sudan.

14. A number of colleagues had retired during the past year or would retire shortly. They were: Helen Argyriades, Maria Diamanti, J. Peter Greaves, Neville Griffith, Thomas Lauwers, Juan Antonio Lopez-Penela, Jacob Matthai, Ahmad Musanna, Mukalay Mwilanbwe, Samuel Ofosu-Amaah, Mary Racelis, Awad Salem Qahoush and Sally Wen. In addition, she paid special tribute to John Williams, Secretary of the Executive Board, who would be retiring at the end of the month.

15. The 1993 UNICEF staff awards had gone to the Afghanistan Office under the leadership of Ekrem Birerdinc, the Liberia Office under the leadership of Carl Tinstman, the staff of the Buenos Aires sub-office, and the Programme Communications and Information Section in Dhaka, Stewart McNab, Mark Stirling and Rosalyn Oming.

16. The CHAIRMAN said the Board had been able to reduce the number of resolutions passed during the session, but room for further improvement remained. In future, Board members should concentrate on resolutions providing a policy direction or a change in programme needed to improve efficiency. He also noted with pleasure the shorter and more thoughtful statements by delegations, leading to a clearer understanding of the issues under consideration.

17. Unfortunately, no final decision on the question of office accommodation had been reached. Delegations were urged to come to the special session to be held in September with the objective of selecting the option that would place UNICEF in the best position to fulfil its obligations to the children of the world.

18. UNICEF must strike a delicate balance among competing demands and priorities in addressing the needs of children: between the immediate and the

(The Chairman)

urgent, between "loud" emergencies and "silent" tragedies, global goals and national priorities, service delivery and enhancing the capacity of people and institutions, between the needs of newly independent States of Eastern Europe and of other developing countries, and lastly, between the need for coordination in the United Nations system in the area of development activities and the need to maintain the comparative advantage of UNICEF.

19. UNICEF had been an active and positive player in development as a whole and in the reform of the United Nations system recently undertaken. The Board had the responsibility to provide vision and encouragement so that UNICEF could continue to play a leadership role.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

20. There being no other business, the Chairman declared the 1993 session of the UNICEF Executive Board closed.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.